

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT A 02724 052221Z
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CA-01 L-03 H-01 HA-05 SSO-00
/027 W

-----025125 052224Z /62

O 052205Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8870

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 2724

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, HA (ROMANO, RICHARD J.)

SUBJ: MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BRUTUS ON RICHARD J. ROMANO

REF: STATE 169145, PORT AU PRINCE 2723

I MET TODAY WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER ON THE DETENTION OF AMERICAN CITIZEN RICHARD J. ROMANO. AS I EXPECTED, THE FOREIGN MINISTER, IN HAITIAN GOVERNMENT STYLE, HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED OF THE ROMANO PROBLEM AND HEARD ABOUT IT FIRST FROM ME. I EXPRESSED OUR STRONG DISPLEASURE THAT ROMANO HAD BEEN HELD UNDER GUARD IN A HOTEL FOLLOWING HIS BOAT PUTTING INTO JEREMIE FOR ASSISTANCE. I ALSO EXPRESSED DISATISFACTION THAT OUT EMBASSY HAD NOT BEEN PROMPTLY NOTIFIED AND THAT ROMANO HAD EVIDENTLY BEEN PREVENTED FROM GETTING IN TOUCH WITH US.

2. BRUTUS WAS APOLOGETIC BUT NOT PARTICULARLY SURPRISED THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED. HE SAID THAT LOCAL MILITARY COMMANDANTS HAVE TOO MUCH AUTHORITY AND NEVER REALIZE THE DIPLOMATIC IMPLICATIONS OF THEIR ACTIONS. HE PROMISED TO IMMEDIATELY GET IN TOUCH WITH THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND SEE WHAT ASSISTANCE CAN BE GIVEN ROMANO TO MAKE UP FOR HIS HARSH TREATMENT. BRUTUS DID NOT ATTEMPT TO WHITEWASH THE ACTIONS OF THE COMMANDANT BUT RATHER TO REGRET THAT HE, BRUTUS, HAD LITTLE AUTHORITY TO CORRECT THE SITUATION AND TO PREVENT FUTURE OCCURRENCES. BRUTUS WROTE DOWN THE DETAILS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT A 02724 052221Z

AND ASSURED ME THAT HE WOULD ACT TO SEE THAT ROMANO WAS EXTENDED ALL COURTESIES. HE SAID HE WISHED SUCH OCCURRENCES WOULD NOT HAPEN, BUT WITH THE COMMANDANTS HAVING SO MUCH LOCAL AUTONOMY AND SO LITTLE UNDERSTANDING AS TO THE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR ACTS, SUCH THINGS PROBABLY WOULD OCCUR FROM TIME TO TIME.

3. COMMENT: LACK OF COORDINATION IN GOH IS COMMON OCCURRENCE
AND IT WOULD NOT BE UNUSUAL FOR BRUTUS TO BE UNAWARE OF THE
SITUATION. EMBASSY CONSULAR OFFICERS ARE FOLLOWING UP TO
ASSURE THAT ROMANO IS WELL TREATED. HE IS NOW FREE AT THE EL
RANCHO HOTEL.
JONES

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PORTA02724
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780276-0434
Format: TEL
From: PORT AU PRINCE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780696/aaaadekf.tel
Line Count: 68
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3c823d92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SCS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 169145, 78 PORT AU PRINCE 2723
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2489369
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BRUTUS ON RICHARD J. ROMANO
TAGS: CASC, HA, (ROMANO, RICHARD J)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3c823d92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014